

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for delivering an in-home test device to a patient at the
2 request of a physician, comprising:
 - 3 a user interface coupled to a network;
 - 4 a test ordering system coupled to the user interface;
 - 5 an order verification system;
 - 6 a database including patient, test and physician records;
 - 7 a shipping and retrieval system, coupled to the ordering system,
 - 8 delivering the test apparatus to the patient; and
 - 9 a result delivery system, delivering test results to the physician.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the test ordering system comprises
2 a call center.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the user interface system comprises
2 a World-Wide Web based interface.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the shipping system comprises an
2 interface to a commercial courier service.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the verification system is housed at
2 a physically different location from the user interface.
- 3 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the test ordering system includes a
4 tracking system allowing authorized access to the test device status.
- 1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the verification system includes an
2 authorization routine interfacing with the database.

1 8. The system of claim 1 wherein the verification system includes a
2 user security hierarchy

1 9. The system of claim 7 wherein the shipping and device retrieval
2 system includes an interface to the database transferring shipping
3 information to the database.

1 10. The system of claim 1 further including a device return verification
2 application, communicating with the logistics system.

1 11. The system of claim 1 further including a data report generator.

2 12. A system for delivering a home test unit to a patient upon the
3 request of an authorized physician, comprising:

4 a test ordering system, including a telephone access system, a
5 facsimile access system and a WWW access system;

6 a data management system coupled to the ordering system;

7 a test distribution and retrieval system coupled to the data
8 management system; and

9 a test data distribution system, coupled to the data management
10 system;

11 wherein the data management system further includes:

12 an authorization system verifying the identity of the
13 authorized physician;

14 an order tracking system; and

15 a device tracking system.

1 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the ordering system includes a call
2 center subsystem.

1 14. The system of claim 12 wherein the data management system
2 includes at least one database containing patient and physician records.

1 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the at least one database includes
2 device tracking information.

1 16. The system of claim 14 further including at least a second database
2 separate from the first database containing a subset of records of said at
3 least one database, and physically housed at a common courier service.

1 17. The system of claim 12 wherein the data management system
2 includes a security application defining and identifying different levels of
3 users accessing the system.

1 18. The system of claim 17 wherein the user levels include members
2 and non-members.

1 19. The system of claim 18 wherein the user levels include patient
2 members, patient non-members, consumer members, physician members,
3 and physician non-members.

1 20. The system of claim 14 wherein the test distribution and retrieval
2 system includes use of a common courier.

1 21. The system of claim 20 wherein the system includes an interface
2 application between the at least one database and the common courier
3 service.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein each test unit includes a unique
2 identification code which is exchanged between the courier service and the
3 interface application.

1 23. The system of claim 12 wherein said test data distribution system
2 includes a result retrieval system coupled to the test device when the test
3 unit is with the patient.

1 24. The system of claim 12 wherein said test data distribution system
2 includes a result retrieval system coupled to the test device when the test
3 device is returned to the distribution and retrieval system.

1 25. A method for delivering a test unit to a patient and distributing
2 results of the test, comprising:

3 (a) receiving an order from a physician for distribution of a test
4 to a patient via a computer coupled to a network;

5 (b) verifying the authorization of the physician to place the order
6 and the patient to receive the order;

7 (c) storing tracking information regarding a test unit shipped to
8 the patient;

9 (d) shipping the test unit to the patient;

10 (e) retrieving test results from the unit; and

11 (f) distributing the test results.

1 26. The method of claim 25 wherein said step (a) includes receiving an
2 order via a telephone.

1 27. The method of claim 25 wherein said step (a) includes receiving an
2 order via a secure World Wide Web interface.

1 28. The method of claim 25 wherein said step (a) includes receiving an
2 order via a facsimile.

1 29. The method of claim 25 wherein said step (c) comprises providing
2 a database including a test unit identification number and patient
3 information, and correlating the test unit information number and patient
4 information during shipment and retrieval.

1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein said step (c) further includes
2 storing, in said database, shipping information including a transmittal date
3 to said patient.

1 31. The method of claim 25 further including a step, following said step
2 (d), of retrieving the test unit from the patient.

1 32. The method of claim 25 further including a step, following said step
2 (e), of retrieving the test unit from the patient.

1 33. The method of claim 25 wherein said step (f) comprises:
2 (f1) determining a user authorized to receive the test results and
3 transmitting the test results to the authorized user.

1 34. The method of claim 25 wherein said step (f) comprises transmitting
2 the test results via a secure World Wide Web connection.

1 35. The method of claim 25 wherein said step (f) comprises transmitting
2 the test results by facsimile to an authorized recipient.

1 36. A system for delivering a medical test to a patient and distributing
2 the results of the test to a physician, comprising:

3 a World-Wide Web based portal including a secure test ordering
4 interface;
5 a database order processing system coupled to the portal;
6 a logistics system interface; and
7 a result distribution system.

1 37. The system of claim 36 wherein said order processing system
2 includes a database including physician, patient, test and device records.

1 38. The system of claim 37 including a database record creation
2 application adding said records to said database.

1 39. The system of claim 36 wherein said logistics system interface
2 includes a shipping demand order output.

1 40. The system of claim 36 wherein said logistics system interface
2 includes a receipt application input accepting shipping numbers, device ID
3 number, and a test identifier number.

1 41. The system of claim 36 further including a receiving and testing
2 system accepting returned test units.

1 42. The system of claim 41 wherein said receiving and testing system
2 includes a refurbishing facility.

1 43. The system of claim 36 wherein said result distribution system
2 includes a verification sub-system to determine authorized recipients for
3 test results.

1 44. The system of claim 43 wherein the result distribution system
2 includes a report generator.

1 45. A World-Wide Web-based portal interface to a system for
2 delivering a medical test to a patient and distributing the results of the test
3 to a physician, comprising:

4 a secure test ordering interface; and
5 a secure test result retrieval interface.

1 46. The portal of claim 45 wherein the secure test ordering interface is
2 coupled to a system for delivering a medical test to a patient including a
3 shipping system coupled to the secure test ordering interface; a verification
4 system coupled to the secure test ordering interface; a retrieval system;
5 and a verification system.

1 47. The portal of claim 46 wherein said secure test result retrieval
2 interface is coupled to a result delivery system, which includes an
3 authorization application and a patient and physician database.